



COMMUNITY SERVICES

July 11th, 2023

In Attendance:

Committee Members:

Council Member Evelyn Reed
Council Member Jeff Hamm
Council Member Judd Hart
Council Member Frank Baptist
John Parton, Community Development Director
Bruce Thomas, Code Enforcement Director
Tom Farmer, Mayor

Council Members present:

Council Member Shane Knight
Council Member Jeff Hamm
Council Member Steve Brown
Council Member Judd Hart
Council Member Frank Baptist
Council Member Evelyn Reed
Council Member Bill Donnor

Council Chair Evelyn Reed, declares a quorum and calls the meeting to order. Introductions are made around the room. ***Council Chair Reed made a motion to entertain approval of the June 13th minutes, Council member Judd Hart made a motion, Council member Jeff Hamm seconded the motion. Motion carried.***

Community Services Agenda:

ITEM A – LIENS

Bruce Thomas approached the podium announcing that there are 5 liens to submit for approval. The first 4 are for demolition of structures that have been completed and were approved within the last few months through condemnation.

413 Hill Street in the amount of \$2925 before fees and penalties.

921 Banner in the amount of \$4750 before fees and penalties.

708 Burton in the amount of \$5250 before fees and penalties.

313 E. North Street in the amount of \$5236.50 before fees and penalties.

703 Pearl Street (Clean-up) in the amount of \$7950.00 before fees and penalties.

Council member Shane Knight made a motion to move to council by 5 separate resolutions for each of these items. Council member Jeff Hamm seconded the motion. Motion carried.

ITEM B – DISCUSSION AND REVIEW OF PROPOSED FRANCHISE AGREEMENT WITH HYPERFIBER

Mayor Farmer announced that each council member had before them a sample ordinance from Hyperfiber who wants to come in and provide a broadband service. Included is a licensing agreement where they will rent poles and other things from the city at \$15/piece. Also included is a resolution with the agreement on the back. The city would like for them to pay the same franchise fee as everyone else who provides those same services to the citizens of Benton. It was asked if Hyperfiber is concentrating on one or more areas of the city or would it be city wide. The mayor indicated it would be city wide. *Council member Judd Hart made a motion to move forward, Council member Jeff Hamm seconded the motion. Motion approved.*

ITEM C – DISCUSSION AND REVIEW OF PROPOSED ANNEXATION ORDINANCE FOR THE THOMAS PROPERTY (TRACK 1)

Mayor Farmer stated that for the city to apply for grants and other things to be utilized in the above-mentioned area, it would help if the property we're applying for was in the city limits. Currently, this property is located within the county. The council members have been provided with all the information and contact numbers should they have any questions. The mayor is asking that this be sent to the council to vote on annexing the 101.5 acres. *Council member Jeff Hamm made a motion to pursue, Council member Steve Brown seconded the motion. Motion carries.*

ITEM D – DISCUSSION OR APPROVAL OF NOMINATION FOR PLANNING COMMISSION

Bret Chumley was the only person to turn in a resume. Mayor Farmer stated that Mr. Chumley is well qualified, his wife Nikki Chumley runs the Event Center. Mr. Chumley has served on the Historic District Commission and was also instrumental in getting the Gann Museum in a negotiation with the library association. *Council member Shane Knight made a motion to accept the nomination of Mr. Chumley to the Planning Commission, Council member Judd Hart seconded the motion. Motion approved.*

OTHER BUSINESS –

- A. Planning commission town hall meeting
- B. Baxter's Legal Review

Meeting Adjourned

